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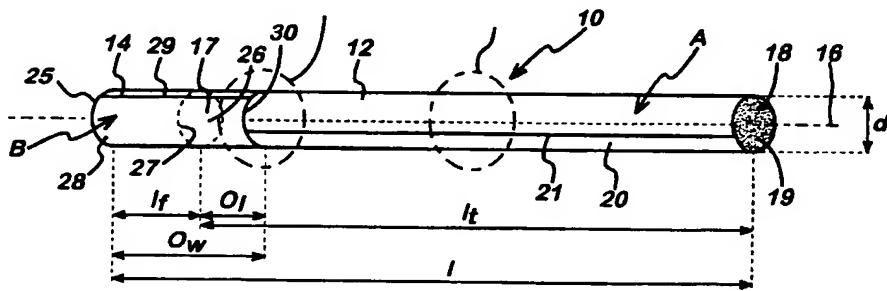
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(54) Title: A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING ONE OR MORE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF A ROLLED SMOKING ARTICLE OR FILTER ROD



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(57) Abstract: A method of determining one or more physical properties of a rolled smoking article (10) or filter rod (14) is disclosed, said method comprising disposing a rolled smoking article or filter rod (14) within a field of view, illuminating said field of view, imaging said rolled smoking article or filter rod within said field of view to form an image, and analysing said image to determine one or more physical properties of said rolled smoking article or filter rod. Preferably said image is a digital image, which may be electronically processed to determine said one or more physical properties. Said one or more physical properties may include the length (e) of the rolled smoking article or filter rod, or its mean diameter (d), ovality, circumference, roundness or shape. The invention also provides apparatus for performing such method comprising imaging means defining the f field of view, said imaging means being adapted for imaging a rolled smoking article or filter rod in said field of view, illuminating means for illuminating said field of view, and processing means for processing said image to determine one or more physical properties of a smoking article or filter rod in said field of view.